REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendment:

Claims 1-23 are canceled. Claims 24-42 are added. New claim 24 is a rewritten version of original claim 22 in independent form including intervening original claims 1 and 15. New claims 25-42 find support in original claims 2-14 and 17-21 respectively. New claims 25-42 are all directly or indirectly dependent from new claim 24 which is equivalent to original claim 22. No new matter has been entered.

Restriction Requirement:

22850

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The claims have been divided into Groups as follows:

Claims 1-21, drawn to an immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor Group I:

comprising an antibody to osteopotin or peptide fragment thereof.

Claim 22, drawn to a method for treatment of diseases caused by Group II:

activation of immunocompetent cells, characterized in administering the

therapeutic agent comprising an antibody to osteopotin or peptide

fragment thereof.

Claims 23, drawn to a method for treatment of hepatopathy, characterized Group III:

in administering the therapeutic agent for hepatopathy comprising an

antibody to osteopotin or peptide fragment thereof.

Applicants elect, without traverse, Group II, Claim 22 (now claims 24-42) (drawn to a method for treatment of diseases caused by activation of immunocompetent cells, characterized in administering the therapeutic agent comprising an antibody to osteopotin or peptide fragment thereof), for examination.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, Customer Number

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